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**BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO**
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Roll Your Own Tobacco Tax Hike to Hit Smokers and Fuel Tobacco Black Market

Commenting on the Government's move to increase tax on roll your own tobacco, British American Tobacco Australia (BATA) was disappointed that smokers are again being hit and warned that the measure will further drive the tobacco black-market.

BATA spokesperson Nicholas Booth said that "Regressive tax hikes have led to a growth of the tobacco black-market from 11.5% of the total tobacco consumption in 2012 to 13.9% in 2016."

"So whilst again hitting smokers in the back pocket, the Government's misconceived announcement will further fuel the growth of the illegal market and result in an even greater loss of excise revenue for the taxpayer."

BATA is concerned that the tobacco black-market, already representing 2.3 million kilograms, will thrive under this new tax regime.

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